COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Gen. McConnell Cites Airpower Strikes In Southeast Asia

The effectiveness of airpower in Southeast Asia today "should go a long way in helping to deter future acts of aggression at all lower levels, down to and including guerrilla action," Gen. John P. McConnell told members of the Houston Men's Club Forum.

The Air Force Chief of Staff said of airpower: "I am referring to all air elements of the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force as well as those of the South Vietnamese Air Force."

Gen. McConnell noted that air strikes by B-52 bombers against select targets in Vietnam "have denied the enemy the opportunity to concentrate his forces in jungle havens that would have otherwise been relatively immune from attack."

The general said U.S. and South Vietnamese troops are now able to penetrate and regain control of many areas. He also pointed out that since the beginning of B-52 strikes, in June 1965, no monsoon offensive has developed.

An important objective being met, Gen. McConnell said, "is the increasingly demoralizing effect which airpower exerts on the enemy's troops through its selective, swift and accurate application of force against vital military targets."

New Assault Transport Helicopter Can Carry 38 Combat-Ready Troops

Navy has received its first CH-53A assault transport helicopter, capable of carrying 38 combat-ready troops.

Being used by the Marine Corps, the CH-53A is the largest and fastest production helicopter in the Free World, according to Navy officials. The helicopter has been flown at speeds of 230 miles per hour at its normal gross weight of 35,000 pounds.

Carrying a crew of three, the CH-53A also can be equipped to handle four medical attendants and 24 litter-borne patients.

With its four-ton limit, the CH-53A could carry two jeeps plus cable reels and console control or a 105mm howitzer with carriage. The helicopter has an external cargo system, designed to permit in-flight pickup and release.

HERO'S AWARD—Lt. Col. Leland B. Fair, 43, security division chief at West Point, receives the Soldier's Medal from Maj. Gen. Donald V. Bennett, superintendent of the Academy. Award was made for the part played by the recipient when he was stationed in Potsdam, East Germany in 1964, attached to the liaison mission, and made arrangements to bring out the wrecked USAFE aircraft which crashed in that country killing three U.S. crewmen.

New Forms Now Necessary For Cheaper Travel by Air

Military personnel traveling by commercial airlines at reduced fares on leave or pass must now submit to the airline a new DOD form along with their orders.

The form is DD Form 1580 and is intended to aid ticket clerks understand the various military orders, type of leave and amount of tariff discount. Military personnel will need at least five copies of the new form.

DOD officials stressed it will be up to the individual man in uniform to obtain the forms.

Officials also pointed out the form is not a substitute for official orders authorizing the various forms of leaves. Forms are not required for commercial rail or bus travel.

DOD said the form can be used for leave, delay en route, pass or liberty and discharge.

Washington Memos

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S signing of H.R. 17271 bill will raise from $200 to $500 per month the combat pay federal tax exemption for commissioned officers. The President said this "will help eliminate a tax inequity that exists among our fighting men in Vietnam." Enlisted men are already exempt from federal tax on pay received while serving in the battle zone.

MARINE LT. COL. Charles H. Ludden has been named "Marine Aviator of the Year" by the First Marine Aviation Force Veterans Association and awarded the Alfred A. Cunningham Trophy. Ludden earned the honor while serving as commanding officer, Marine All-Weather Fighter Squadron 212, in Southeast Asia.

ION SPACE ENGINE being tested by NASA has set an endurance record, running 341 days non-stop in a space simulation chamber. The engine is being tested for long-range space operations.

TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE has passed the half-million point in 1966 aircraft actions. Used by both civilian and military aircraft in Viet Nam, air base averages 1,511 aircraft actions daily.

POLARIS MISSILE SUBMARINE Francis Scott Key was commissioned Dec. 3 at Groton, Conn. It is the 39th nuclear-powered Polaris missile submarine to go to sea.

USO CHRISTMAS SHOW "The Splinters," a group from Northern Arizona University at Flagstaff, will spend the holiday season in the frozen northeast, entertaining servicemen there. Program includes spirituals, pop and western music and traditional madrigals.

IN JANUARY THE Navy's Dental Training Committee is to consider applications from qualified dental officers for advanced training. Requests will be evaluated for assignment to graduate courses at the U.S. Naval Dental School, graduate level courses in civilian institutions, American Dental Association approved residencies at naval facilities, and to the Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program.

ARMY SERGEANT MAJOR William O. Wooldridge will be Grand Marshal of 10th Annual Cotton Bowl Festival Parade, Dec. 31. He becomes second Grand Marshal in parade's history. First was Texas Governor John Connally.

NASA COMPLETED SATURN engine procurement, ordering 30 F-1, 1.5 million-pound thrust engines from Rocketdyne Division of North American Aviation. NASA announcement said the order completes the number of engines needed for use on the 15 scheduled Saturn V rockets, plus spares. Saturn rocket is programmed to be launch vehicle for this country's Apollo lunar effort.

MEDIUM ANTI-TANK assault weapon is getting continued engineering development work under terms of a $3 million contract issued by the U.S. Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal to McDonnell Aircraft Corp. at St. Louis.

IN THE SPRING of next year two C-141 Starlifter squadrons of the Military Airlift Command are to be assigned to Norton AFB, Calif. This involves activation of the 30th MAC Sq. and move of the 15th MAC Sq. from Hunter AFB, Ga. Parent unit for both will be the 63rd Military Airlift Wing at Hunter, scheduled for movement with the 15th. Hunter is to close when all its units are relocated or inactivated.

GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATE Jouett has been commissioned at Bremerton, Wash. The 547-foot long ship will be armed with surface-to-air missiles, antisubmarine rockets, an antisubmarine drone helicopter and 5-inch 54-caliber and 3-inch 50-caliber guns.

NEW POSITION of Military Manpower Research Coordinator in the office of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower has been filled by Dr. Edmund E. Dudek, formerly Technical Director of the Naval Personnel Research Activity at San Diego. Position is to furnish staff support to Manpower Management Planning Board which reviews and recommends policy guidance on Defense-wide manpower research projects.

TWO ARMY NURSES received Army Commendation Medal on return to the states for meritorious service in South Vietnam. They are 1st Lt. Rebecca S. Brandon, operating room nurse, 3d Field Hospital, and 1st Lt. Clarice A. Schneider, general duty nurse, 85th Evacuation Hospital. Both are now assigned to Martin Army Hospital, Ft. Benning, Ga.

INK SPOTS XMAS show leaves for Alaska in mid-December for a 15-day tour of military bases there. Group led by Charles Owens will sing the old Ink Spots' favorite numbers.

DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE announces appointment of Dr. Hamilton A. Mathes as academic advisor. Formerly special assistant for Language and Area Studies at the United States Information Agency, Dr. Mathes, a Harvard Ph.D., has long been identified with work in modern languages and language training.

MAKING JET NOISE on purpose, Lockheed-Georgia Company researchers are using a special sound laboratory to measure noise levels of various VTOL propulsion systems such as tilt-wing, lift-fan, direct lift and rotar lift. A vertical-takeoff-and-landing cargo plane needs tremendous lift in its helicopter phase, engineers point out, and tremendous lift means tremendous noise.

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Background for Commanders

U.S. COMMITMENTS IN EUROPE

In a recent discussion at Harvard University, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara delineated the general aims and emphasis of U.S. foreign policy and the effect of the NATO alliance of a United Nations treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Excerpts appear below.

I doubt that a non-proliferation treaty would have much effect on NATO other than the effect it would have on all other nations of the world. The effect of not having it, however, will be to encourage the proliferation of nuclear weapons. As a matter of fact, it would almost force the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

DeGaulle Doctrine

You may have noted that President De Gaulle on many occasions has said that he considered it the responsibility of political leaders of nations which have the technical capability to develop nuclear weapons to undertake a nuclear weapon program.

That doctrine, which has not had much acceptance to date, is bound to be accepted as more and more nations acquire weapons.

The acquisition of nuclear weapons by the Chinese will put great pressure on India, for example, and other nations as well, to acquire weapons, and the De Gaulle doctrine and the Chinese example, without question will lead to proliferation of nuclear weapons unless the treaty is signed, and signed soon.

However, that treaty effect will not be limited to members of NATO, but to all nations of the world. All of them will benefit from it.

Effect on NATO Unity

There have been some who said, for example, that the Federal Republic of Germany would oppose such a nuclear treaty because they would feel it would stand in their way of playing a greater role in nuclear planning and consultation for possible use of nuclear weapons in NATO.

I don't believe they feel that way and I don't believe it would stand in their way of greater participation in such nuclear affairs. I think they should have an opportunity for such greater participation. I think they will get it when in December the North Atlantic Council is meeting and the Foreign and Defense Ministers will, I hope, establish a permanent mechanism that will permit the non-nuclear states to associate more closely with the nuclear members of NATO in the planning of nuclear operations and in the process of consultation related to their use.

The so-called "McNamara Committee," I hope, will be established and formalized permanently in December at the NATO meeting.

We could shift additional military resources to Western Europe when they are required. I doubt very much that they are required. I don't put any great emphasis on these reports of Soviet build-up. I believe that the Soviets have maintained and will continue to maintain a strong military force in East Germany, and along the borders of Western Europe. I think they would be tempted to probe with that force for weakness in the West if weakness were to develop. I don't think we should allow it to develop.

But I don't see any limitation on our capability for meeting our European commitments brought about by our commitments in Southeast Asia.

We have put some 340,000 men into Vietnam and we will, by the end of the year, have something on the order of 385,000 men in Southeast Asia. We have done this without withdrawing major military units from Europe and I think we can continue to put whatever force is necessary in Southeast Asia without such withdrawals. So I don't see any reason to believe that we will not have it within our power to fulfill our commitments to Europe.

$825,000 Study Contracts Awarded For Advanced Launching Vehicles

National Aeronautics and Space Administration has let four contracts totalling $825,000 to study methods for exploring planets and designing advanced launch vehicles.

One contract with Lockheed-California Co. is for studying the possibility of an "air-breathing" first stage launch vehicle for "cruise capability," with a second stage of strap-on liquid or solid fuel rockets to blast a spacecraft from the earth's atmosphere. The first stage would fly back to earth and land.

A contract with Boeing calls for a study of the feasibility of a large launch vehicle to lift loads up to four-million pounds into an earth orbit.

Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. has been asked to study manned space missions in the vicinity of the planets Mars and Venus.

North American Aviation has been awarded a contract to probe into a concept to give a spacecraft "atmospheric brakes" to orbit Venus and Mars.

Foreign Space Station To be Set Up in Alaska

A foreign space station is expected to be operational by summer 1967 near Fairbanks, Alaska, under terms of an agreement signed in Paris with the European Space Research Organization (ESRO).

The White House announced that the agreement conforms with the President's intentions to cooperate with other nations in scientific space efforts.

ESRO members are Belgium, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Community Service Awards Given Army Installations

Army Community Service plaques have been awarded to three installations by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold K. Johnson.

The awards are the first in a series to be given annually for ACS management excellence, personal assistance emphasis and post community services.

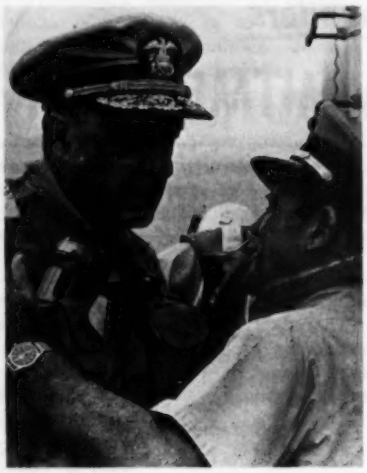
Ft. Dix, N. J., was cited for an outstanding program within the United States to meet soldiers' and family needs. Ft. MacArthur, Calif., received a special category award for a post with fewer than 2,000 military personnel.

Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, was recognized for outstanding achievement in the overseas program, particularly in providing relocation assistance for those transferred to Vietnam.

Navy Developing Safer Litter

The Navy is developing a plastic litter to insure a greater degree of safety for patients, especially those being transferred at sea between ships.

Officials said field tests and evaluation of the new litter is expected by early next year at the Naval Medical Field Research Laboratory, Camp Lejeune, N.C.



TONKIN GULF VISIT—Vice Adm. Allen M. Shinn, left, confers with Vice Adm. John J. Hyland, commander Seventh Fleet, aboard the fleet commander's flagship, the USS Oklahoma City.

Newest of Escort Ships Is Launched at Seattle

The first of 46 new ocean escort ships—designed for optimum performance in locating and destroying submarines—has been launched in Seattle, Wash.

Designed by the Naval Ship Systems Command, the ships will be equipped with the most advanced anti-submarine warfare detection devices and weapons.

Each ship will have an over-all length of 438 feet and a full-load displacement of about 4,000 tons.

Review of Draft Records Set

Defense officials say that a records review has been ordered for well under a half-million Class I-Y draft deferees in the 19-25 age group because of revised standards of induction aptitude tests.

DOD said the revision of test standards is effective Dec. 1.

The revision is described as "a second step in the program to qualify 40,000 men for military service in the 12 months ending Sept. 30, 1967."

Retail Price Reductions Set by Navy Exchanges

Navy Exchanges are scheduled to cut prices on 20 categories of merchandise by the middle of 1967.

Housewares and small electrical appliances will be reduced by the end of 1966. Luggage and leather goods, toys and wheel goods and toiletries will have price reductions in effect by the middle of 1967.

Price reductions will range from 10 to 20 percent, depending on the item.

A phased schedule for the price reduction program will avoid sudden drops in profits for exchanges and shortages in Navy recreation funds.

Two U.S., German Firms To Develop New Aircraft

The United States and Germany have selected the firms for joint development of a Vertical Take-off Landing/Short Take-off Landing (VTOL/STOL) fighter aircraft.

Republic Aviation Division of Fairchild Hiller at Farmingdale, Long Island, N.Y., and Entwicklungsring-SUD of Munich, Germany were chosen. Both will be under the direction of the Systems Program Office, jointly manned by American and German personnel.

Choice of Smokes to Broaden

Servicemen will find a greater variety of cigarets in their combat rations.

Defense Supply Agency said a new competitive bid system within four categories—king size, filter, regular, and menthol filter—now makes more brands eligible for purchase.

Formerly a brand or type had to constitute 10 percent or more of overseas post exchange cigaret sales to be eligible for combat ration purchase.

DSA also said the new procurement system would save the government money in providing the four-to-a-pack combat cigaret packages.

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